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NEWS RELEASE

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Appropriations Committee approves funding for Spokane Boys & Girls Club

WASHINGTON -- The Boys & Girls Club of Spokane County will get federal help in their quest for a new clubhouse, said U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.).

Nethercutt announced today that the House Appropriations Committee, of which he is a member, has approved \$450,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Spokane County as part of the Fiscal Year 2003 VA-HUD spending bill. The bill funds the Veterans Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and independent agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Poverty in our society hurts children the most. The Boys & Girls Club of Spokane serves hundreds of children in our area, helping them learn good study skills, making sure they are fed, and giving them access to computers, all of which are critical factors in their successful development," Nethercutt said.

The funding will assist the club in remodeling their 60,000-square foot facility, a former Catholic elementary school. The cost to remodel the building is estimated at \$750,000.

The 1,500-member club began service in June of 2001. Prior to this date, Spokane was the largest metropolitan area in the United States without a Boys & Girls Club. About 65 percent of member households have an income of under \$25,000, and 80 percent of their new members have not participated in any other youth program.

"Funding for this club means making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children in our community," Nethercutt said.

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